

1                                   **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
2                                   **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

3   UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Case No.: 2:18-cr-00136-APG-PAL

4           Plaintiff

**Order Denying Motion to Quash**

5   v.

[ECF No. 34]

6   COLE LUSBY,

7           Defendant

8           Defendant Cole Lusby moves to quash two subpoenas issued in *United States v Lusby*,  
9 2:16-cr-00181-APG-PAL. Although the subpoenas were issued in a different case, that case and  
10 this one were combined for scheduling purposes, I am the presiding district judge in both cases,  
11 and the parties agreed I should resolve the motion to quash in this case.

12           I deny the motion to quash. The motion is moot as to the emails and calls obtained  
13 through the second subpoena. The Government no longer has the emails and it has indicated it  
14 does not intend to use at trial either the emails or jail calls produced in response to the second  
15 subpoena.

16           As to the first subpoena, even if the Government's actions were procedurally improper  
17 under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 17(c), any error was harmless. Had the Government  
18 moved for a Rule 17(c) subpoena for Lusby's jail calls from the date of his arrest through the  
19 then-scheduled May 10, 2018 revocation hearing, I would have granted it. The party seeking to  
20 use a Rule 17(c) subpoena to obtain documents or other objects must show: "1) relevancy, 2)  
21 admissibility, and 3) specificity." *United States v. Eden*, 659 F.2d 1376, 1381 (9th Cir. 1981).  
22 Additionally, to "justify a subpoena for production before trial, the proponent must also  
23 demonstrate that the subpoenaed materials are not available from any other source and their

1 examination and processing should not await trial in the circumstances shown.” *Id.* Whether to  
2 grant a subpoena is within the court’s discretion. *Id.*

3         The Government has articulated reasons why it reasonably expected relevant, admissible,  
4 and specific evidence would be on Lusby’s jail calls shortly after his arrest. The jail calls would  
5 be relevant to showing Lusby’s knowing failure to register and use of false identities to evade  
6 detection. The jail calls would be admissible as statements of a party opponent. Fed. R. Evid.  
7 801(d)(2).

8         The Government also identified specific information it reasonably expected would be on  
9 the jail calls shortly after Lusby’s arrest. When Lusby was arrested, he was in possession of  
10 identification and credit cards of multiple individuals and he had rented a room at the housing  
11 complex where he was apprehended under one of those names. The Government thus sought the  
12 jail calls because it expected others were helping Lusby with possible identify theft crimes and  
13 Lusby might ask them to destroy evidence given his arrest. Additionally, the Government  
14 represents that based on statements Lusby’s long-time girlfriend, Amber Thompson, made on the  
15 date of Lusby’s arrest, law enforcement expected she and Lusby would discuss on jail calls how  
16 long Lusby had been in Nevada without registering and means used for him to evade detection.

17         A Rule 17(c) subpoena “is not intended to serve as a discovery tool . . . or to allow a  
18 blind fishing expedition seeking unknown evidence.” *United States v. MacKey*, 647 F.2d 898,  
19 901 (9th Cir. 1981) (internal citations omitted). But because the Government had not yet  
20 listened to the jail calls when it issued the subpoena, “it would be unreasonable to expect a more  
21 detailed connection be provided between the contents of the [calls] and the ultimate facts at issue  
22 in the case.” *Id.*

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1 As for specificity in the time frame of the requested calls, the subpoena sought jail calls  
2 from the date of Lusby's arrest "and continuing." ECF No. 36-1. The revocation hearing was set  
3 for May 10 and the facility responded by providing calls from April 24 through May 10. If the  
4 Government had requested a subpoena for this short period of time, I would have granted it  
5 given the proximity in time to the arrest in relation to the information the Government  
6 reasonably expected would be in the calls.

7 The jail calls would not be available from another source. Although perhaps a witness  
8 could testify about what Lusby said on jail calls, there is little evidentiary substitute for the  
9 defendant's own recorded words. Finally, there was a reasonable basis to request pretrial  
10 production. The Government would not know how many jail calls Lusby would have made or  
11 received during the roughly two-week timeframe at issue. To avoid inefficiencies at the hearing,  
12 pretrial production would have allowed the parties to winnow the calls to only those calls (and  
13 portions of calls) that are relevant to the issues at trial or at the revocation hearing.

14 Moreover, there is little to no prejudice to Lusby from any procedural irregularity. The  
15 Government provided the jail calls to Lusby well before trial or the revocation hearing. ECF No.  
16 36-2. Thus, the Government has not obtained an unfair advantage from the facility producing  
17 the calls to the Government instead of to the court.

18 Finally, there is no evidence the calls the facility produced contain attorney-client  
19 privileged calls.<sup>1</sup> The subpoena specifically directed the facility not to provide attorney-client  
20 communications. ECF No. 36-1. Although Lusby asserts the Government has information it

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22 <sup>1</sup> It is questionable whether Lusby has standing to challenge a Rule 17(c) subpoena where  
23 he has no Fourth Amendment protected interest in the materials sought, even where there were  
procedural irregularities like the ones Lusby raises here. *See United States v. Miller*, 425 U.S.  
435, 438-39, 444 (1976). The parties did not raise this issue and I deny Lusby's motion on the  
merits, so I do not address standing.

1 could not know absent access to privileged calls or emails, the Government has explained how it  
2 knows each category of information. For example, at calendar call, the Government stated that  
3 based on the Assistant United States Attorney having listened to jail calls, the Government knew  
4 that Lusby believes the Government will not be able to prove interstate travel. Lusby assumes  
5 the Government must have obtained that information from privileged calls and emails. But in a  
6 jail call with his girlfriend, Lusby twice discussed that the charges were not filed correctly  
7 because he has to cross state lines but he did not. He also twice mentioned that it is not even  
8 charged in the indictment that he crossed state lines and that he was going to file a motion about  
9 that. ECF No. 37 (Exhibit C). That conversation is not protected by the attorney-client privilege.  
10 In that same call, Lusby asked Thompson to obtain his medical and psychiatric records and  
11 provide them to his attorney. *Id.*

12 Similarly, Lusby assumes the Government learned from privileged sources about his  
13 contacts with certain law enforcement officers and the amount of loss in an uncharged incident.  
14 But the Government has copies of the letters Lusby sent to the agents and Lusby states the  
15 amount of loss in one of those letters. ECF Nos. 36-5; 36-6.

16 In sum, I deny as moot the motion to quash the second subpoena because the Government  
17 does not intend to use any materials obtained from that subpoena. I deny the motion to quash the  
18 first subpoena because any procedural irregularities were harmless, there is no evidence that the  
19 facility produced to the Government attorney-client privileged communications, and Lusby has  
20 not identified any prejudice to support quashing it.

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1 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that defendant Cole Lusby's motion to quash (ECF No.  
2 34) is **DENIED**.

3 DATED this 3rd day of August, 2018.

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5 ANDREW P. GORDON  
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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